

*Rec'd 12-7-78
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AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
AND THE
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ARTICLE I. INTRODUCTION

On May 27, 1973, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) assumed responsibility for the earthquake research formerly performed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). On September 7, 1973, NOAA's seismological and geomagnetic observational systems and service programs became the responsibility of the USGS. At that time, it was agreed that NOAA would retain ownership and management responsibility for the Adak, Alaska seismological observing facilities as an integral part of its Pacific-wide program to issue alerts and warnings of seismic sea waves (tsunamis). Because of increased telemetering of seismic data from Adak to NOAA's Tsunami facilities in Palmer, Alaska, and the assumption by Palmer of the local warning responsibilities formerly exercised by Adak, it has been determined that the Adak facility is in excess of NOAA's needs. Because of increased USGS seismic research programs in the Aleutians, it has been determined that the Adak facility is essential to the USGS programs to predict earthquakes and to reduce the loss of life and property therefrom.

In accordance with the authority delegated in the September 7, 1973 interdepartmental agreement between the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior, the Associate Administrator of NOAA and the Associate Director of USGS hereby agree to transfer ownership and management of the Adak facility from NOAA to USGS.

ARTICLE II. AUTHORITIES

Department of Commerce (NOAA) authority; 33 U.S.C. 883 a-i.

Department of the Interior (USGS) authority; 42 U.S.C. 1861-1882

Reference: Agreement Between the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, effective September 7, 1973.

Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on the Mutually Supporting Functions of the USGS and NOAA Seismic and Geomagnetic Observatories, effective September 15, 1973.

Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on Seismologic and Geomagnetic Data, effective September 16, 1973.

ARTICLE III. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROGRAMS

(a) U.S. Geological Survey Program.

The USGS has the primary responsibility for those in-house research and service programs in the earth sciences required to reduce the loss of life and property due to earthquakes. The program emphasizes the basic understanding of fundamental seismological, geophysical, geological, tectonic, and soil mechanic principles. An essential part of this research and service program is a global network of seismic observatories and the associated system to collect, process, analyze and distribute seismological data. NOAA tsunami warning facilities at Adak and Palmer, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii, which collect seismic and geomagnetic data, are important parts of this global network.

(b). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Program.

NOAA has responsibility for Pacific-wide alerts and warnings of seismic sea waves (tsunamis). Under the auspices of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), NOAA operates the International Tsunami Information Center. During possible tsunamigenic earthquakes, NOAA depends on data and services from its own facilities, from USGS facilities, and from cooperating facilities operated by other nations. Results of USGS research on tectonic processes will be important to NOAA's tsunami warning programs.

ARTICLE IV. ASSUMPTION OF PROGRAM CAPABILITY

Because of the assumption by the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer of the regional warning responsibilities formerly exercised by the facility at Adak, Alaska, the manned seismic monitoring and recording program located at the U.S. Naval Station at Adak, Alaska are now excess to NOAA's needs. The USGS is expanding its earthquake research program in that portion of the Aleutian Island Chain, and wishes to assume responsibility for that facility.

It is therefore agreed that the real property, equipment, and other program assets now held by the Department of Commerce located in or associated with NOAA's Adak Tsunami Warning Program facility will be incorporated into the USGS.

Real Property: NOAA occupies buildings and property (See Attachment 1) owned by the U.S. Navy under a use agreement (MOy (R)-69830) dated November 1, 1965 and amended May 22, 1970 (see attached). NOAA will notify the Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station of the terms of this interagency agreement. USGS will negotiate a separate use agreement with the Navy.

- Equipment and Vehicles: NOAA and USGS will jointly notify the General Services Administration that the equipment and vehicles listed in Attachment 2 are excess to NOAA's needs, but are required to meet USGS program requirements, and thus should be transferred to USGS.
- Position: NOAA will notify the OMB that one (1) position (ceiling point) should be reduced from NOAA's ceiling and added to that of the USGS.
- Funding: In fiscal year 1979, NOAA will provide to USGS \$50,000 under a reimbursable agreement to operate the Adak facility during the first year. Such funds as NOAA must obligate between October 1, 1978 and the effective date of this agreement to support the Adak program will be deducted from this \$50,000. In the fiscal year 1980 budget, NOAA and USGS will work with OMB and the respective appropriations committees in the Congress to reduce NOAA's base budget by \$50,000 and to increase that of the USGS by a like amount. If the appropriations committees do not agree with these base adjustments, USGS will assume funding responsibility for Adak within its base, with no further transfer of funds from NOAA for this purpose.

ARTICLE V. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- (a) While the Adak facility acts primarily as a seismic observatory supporting the tsunami warning service, it does perform a few services of a non-seismological nature. It is agreed that the USGS will continue these services at the level now performed by the NOAA staff at no cost to NOAA. A principal service referred to here relates to the National Ocean Survey's (NOS) tide program. This includes (1) the location of the existing NOS tide measuring and related equipment, (2) station maintenance and repair (to be coordinated with the NOS Pacific Tide Party); and (3) Tide observer services as outlined in the attached "Duties of Tide Observers."
- (b) The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center equipment at Adak consist of one Geotech short period seismometer operating in a vertical mode at 1.OHZ. The seismic information is remoted to the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center at Palmer using two telemetry channels over an RCA leased phone circuit. The seismic information is recorded on Helicorders at magnifications of 10, 100, and 12,500, also on a Develocorder at 50,000. The USGS will continue the operation of this short period seismometer.

The NOS tide gage data at Adak is also remoted to the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center Observatory at Palmer via a telemetry channel on the same leased phone circuit as the seismic data. The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center equipment consists of a Bristol transmitter which is driven from a NOS standard float-actuated gage at the Navy dock on Adak. A leased cable pair is used to record the tide data onto a 4 inch Bristol recorder at the Adak Observatory. A remote tone transmitter mounted on the Observatory recorder allows the tide data to be recorded on a duplicate 4 inch recorder at the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer.

The USGS will continue recording of the Adak tide gage at Adak Observatory. It will serve as back-up in the event of the loss of the data circuit to ATWC. NOAA will continue to supply recording paper for the Adak recorder and pay the \$15/month charge for the phone line from the tide gage to the observatory, as well as the costs of the Adak to Palmer leased RCA line.


- (c) The Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on Mutually Supporting Functions of the USGS and NOAA Seismic and Geomagnetic Observatories and the Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on Seismological and Geomagnetic Observatories and the Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on Seismological and Geomagnetic Data are hereby amended by deleting Adak as a NOAA facility. Data from Adak will be treated the same as data from other USGS facilities.
- (d) NOAA retains the tsunami warning responsibility for the Aleutian Island Chain. Requests made directly to the USGS observatory at Adak for information on possible tsunamis will be referred to the NOAA facility at Palmer, Alaska. The USGS will not originate tsunami watches, warnings, or statements of the probability of tsunami generation from a specific earthquake except in the case of a total breakdown of communications with Palmer.


ARTICLE VI. IMPLEMENTATION-SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS

Working arrangements to effect the orderly accomplishment of this agreement shall be made and carried out by the Associate Director, Meteorology and Oceanography, National Weather Service on behalf of NOAA and the Chief, Office of Earthquake Studies on behalf of the USGS.

ARTICLE VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement is entered into and made effective on the 21st day of Nov., 1978.


George S. Benton
Associate Administrator
NOAA


William A. Radlinski
Associate Director
USGS